

STATISTICS CANADA MONTHLY RETAIL TRADE SURVEY: March 2020

[Statistics Canada](#) has released its [Retail Trade Survey for March 2020](#).

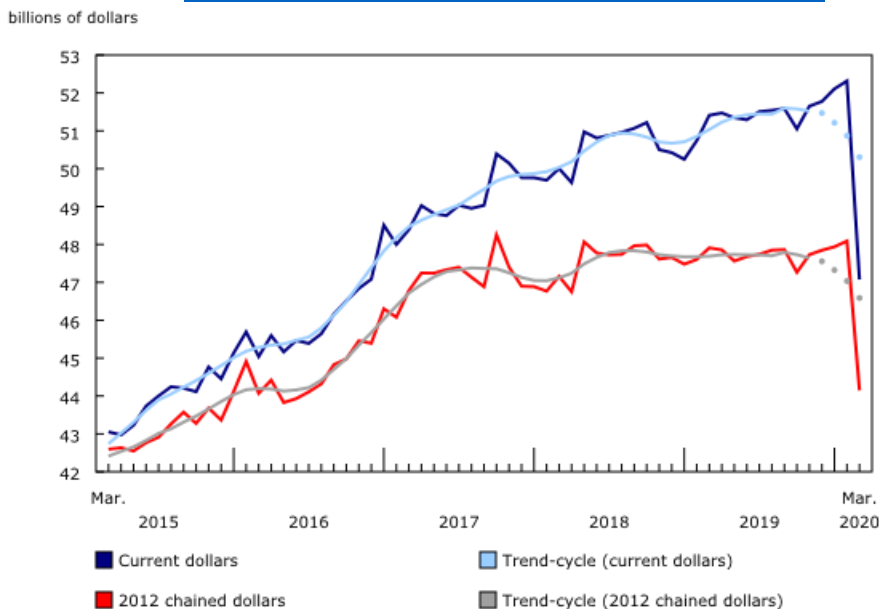
The agency reports, "Retail sales fell for the first time in five months, plunging 10.0% to \$47.1 billion in March." The agency notes it is the largest decline in retail sales on record and is comparable to the retail sales decline observed in the US (-7.1%) and other countries in the wake of COVID-19.

Highlights:

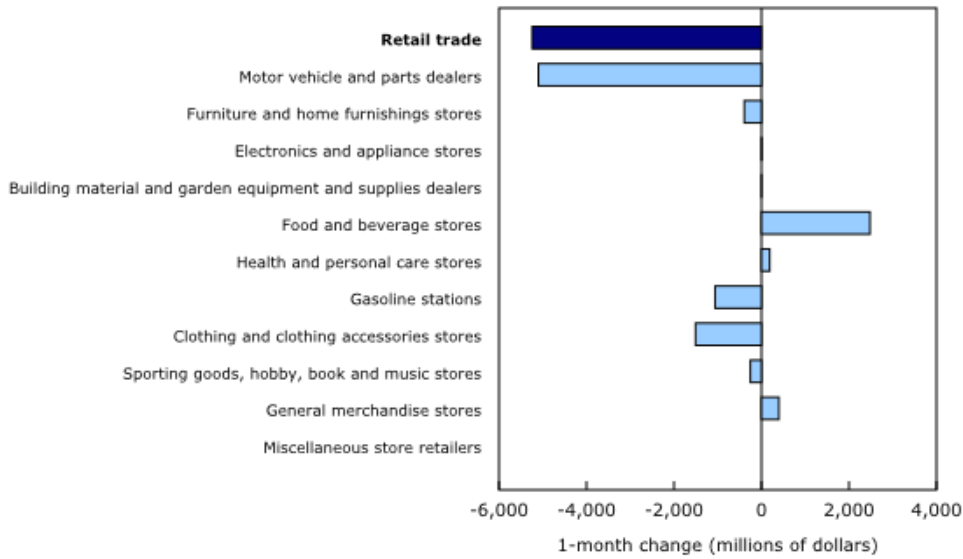
- Record declines at motor vehicle and parts dealers, clothing and clothing accessories stores and gasoline stations led the March decrease.
- Sales were down in 6 of 11 subsectors, representing 39.2% of retail trade.
- Retail sales surge at grocery stores.
- Retail e-commerce sales soar.
- About 40% of retailers closed their doors during March.

Statistics Canada also notes its advance results for April 2020 indicate retail sales declined by 15.6%.

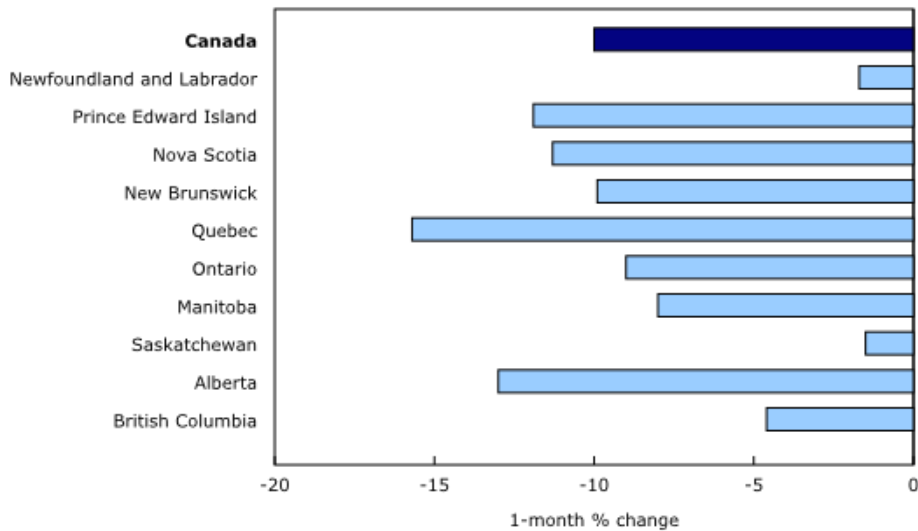
Retail Sales – March 2020 (Source: Statistics Canada)



Retail Sales Decline in 6 of 11 Subsectors – March 2020 (Source: Statistics Canada)



Retail Sales Decline in all Provinces - March 2020 (Source: Statistics Canada)



Link to PDF Version of Full Report: [Statistics Canada Retail Trade Survey \(March 2020\)](#)